

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 35698 01 OF 02 021920Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /094 W

----- 090906

R 022030Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7598

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 35698

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: DUHAMEL OF CGT ON VARIOUS ISSUES

1. A TOUR D'HORIZON WITH US AND UK LABOR COUNSELORS
PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS BY RENE DUHAMEL,
CGT NATIONAL SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ON
29 NOVEMBER.

(A) WFTU. HE WILL ATTEND THE WFTU'S EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEETING IN NEW DELHI THE WEEK OF 6 DECEMBER BUT DOES
NOT EXPECT ANY IMPORTANT DECISIONS TO BE MADE THERE.
WFTU, JUST LIKE THE OTHER TWO INTERNATIONAL LABOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 35698 01 OF 02 021920Z

ORGANIZATIONS (ICFTU AND WCL), HAS LOST MUCH OF ITS

ORIGINAL PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE WIDENING GAP BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND THE THIRD WORLD. AS A RESULT THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING TREND TOWARDS REGIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS ON A CONTINENT-WIDE BASIS. THE OAS IN AFRICA AND THE ETUC IN WE ARE TYPICAL EXAMPLES OF THIS TREND. WHILE THERE IS A GREAT DEAL TO JUSTIFY THIS DEVELOPMENT ONE SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THESE REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AGGRAVATE EXISTING DIFFERENCES AMONG THE REGIONS INVOLVED AND THUS UNDERMINE THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR SOLIDARITY. SEEN IN THIS LIGHT THE WFTU, ICFTU AND WCL MAY STILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION TO PERFORM BY PROVIDING A STRUCTURE FOR LABOR SOLIDARITY ACROSS REGIONAL LINES.

(B) GENSOUS. THE WFTU SECRETARY GENERAL MAY NOT SEEK REELECTION AT THE NEXT WFTU CONGRESS IN 1978. HE HAS BEEN COMPLAINING FOR A LONG TIME ABOUT BEING AWAY FROM FRANCE AND NOW HE HAS AN ADDITIONAL PROBLEM BECAUSE HIS FAMILY HAS RETURNED TO FRANCE TO MEET THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF HIS SON. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO SAY AT THIS TIME WHETHER CGT WILL CONTINUE TO EXPECT THAT THE WFTU SECRETARY GENERAL BE A FRENCH CITIZEN. THIS DECISION MAY WELL DEPEND UPON CGT'S ENTRY INTO ETUC.

(C) LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE. ALTHOUGH NOT PUBLICIZED SOME MULTILATERAL COORDINATION HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE AMONG THE EE TRADE UNIONS. EVIDENCE OF THIS HAD BEEN SEEN IN ILO AND IN WFTU MEETINGS WHERE THE EE LABOR REPRESENTATIVES WERE SHOWN TO HAVE COMMON POSITIONS ON VARIOUS ISSUES. THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE NOW THAT THESE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF A MORE STRUCTURED COORDINATION AMONG THEMSELVES POSSIBLY IN THE FORM OF AN EE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION TO MATCH ETUC.

(D) CGT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND RESOURCES OF CGT'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, A RECENT DECISION WAS MADE TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 35698 01 OF 02 021920Z

ESTABLISH PERMANENT STUDY GROUPS WHICH WILL FOLLOW ON A REGULAR BASIS LABOR DEVELOPMENTS IN A GIVEN GEOGRAPHIC AREA. THE MEMBERS OF THESE GROUPS HAVE BEEN DRAWN FROM THE VARIOUS CGT FEDERATIONS AND PRESENTLY NUMBER ABOUT 100. A RECENT EXAMPLE OF THIS NEW APPROACH WAS THE STUDY BY ONE GROUP OF THE TUC CONGRESS LAST SEPTEMBER.

(E) ETUC. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE AT THE 5 NOVEMBER MEETING BETWEEN THE CGT (HEADED BY SEGUY) AND ETUC (HEADED BY VETTER) DELEGATIONS. HOWEVER, DUHAMEL (ALSO A MEMBER OF THE CGT DELEGATION), WHILE CONVINCED THAT EVENTUALLY CGT WILL BE ACCEPTED BY ETUC, HE DOES NOT EXPECT THIS TO HAPPEN SOON. HE CLAIMED THAT SOME ETUC MEMBERS ARE LESS PESSIMISTIC THAN HE IS ABOUT THE TIMETABLE OF CGT'S

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 35698 02 OF 02 021922Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /094 W

----- 091065

R 022030Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7599

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 35698

ADMISSION. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT CGT'S ADMISSION

DEPENDS ON A SINGLE CONDITION, NAMELY CGT'S RELATIONS WITH WFTU. HE READILY RECOGNIZED THIS TIME THAT THE CGIL READINESS TO ACCEPT ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN WFTU HAS CREATED A PRECEDENT FOR CGT BUT ADDED THAT CGT STILL CONSIDERS THIS ETUC CONDITION AS DISCRIMINATORY BECAUSE ALL OTHER ETUC AFFILIATES HAVE RETAINED THEIR AFFILIATION WITH ICFTU. HE WENT THROUGH A LONG EXPLANATION WHY CGIL MADE THIS CONCESSION ADDING THAT CGT WILL NOT ACCEPT TO PAY SUCH A PRICE TO AFFILIATE WITH ETUC.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 35698 02 OF 02 021922Z

2. COMMENT: DUHAMEL WAS RELAXED, SELF-ASSURED AND FORTHCOMING IN HIS RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS. THE ONLY ITEM IN WHICH HE SHOWED SIGNS OF AWKWARDNESS AND MADE AN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO EXPRESS HIMSELF CAREFULLY WAS THE CGT REFUSAL (IN CONTRAST TO PCF) TO PARTICIPATE IN A RECENT PUBLIC MEETING TO PROTEST IMPRISONMENT OF MATHEMATICIANS IN NON-DEMOCRATIC REGIMES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE USSR AND EE. HIS EXPLANATION FOLLOWED THE PREDICTABLE LINE THAT CGT DECIDES SUCH ACTIONS ON ITS OWN AND DOES NOT FOLLOW PCF DIRECTIVES. HE SOUNDED CONVINCING, HOWEVER, IN REJECTING THE THOUGHT THAT THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT SHOWED THAT THERE IS AN IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT BETWEEN SEGUY AND MARCHAIS. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE WHOLE INCIDENT WAS WELL BEYOND THE SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES DUHAMEL IS ALLOWED TO CARRY WITHIN CGT.

3. HIS INSISTENCE THAT THERE ARE SIGNS THAT EE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS ARE THINKING OF A REGIONAL ORGANIZATION STRIKES US AS THE MOST INTERESTING POINT OF THE CONVERSATION WITH DUHAMEL, ESPECIALLY SINCE HE SEEMED CONVINCED THAT HE WAS RIGHT IN HIS PERCEPTION EVEN THOUGH HE HAD NO HARD FACTS TO OFFER IN SUPPORT.

RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, LABOR UNIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS35698
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760446-0770
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761279/aaaacqcc.tel
Line Count: 211
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DUHAMEL OF CGT ON VARIOUS ISSUES
TAGS: ELAB, FR, (DUHAMEL, RENE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006